

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
WESTERN DIVISION**

Raul Luna Adame,)	
)	
vs.)	No. 06-0916-CV-W-FJG
United States of America,)	Crim. No. 05-00325-01-CR-W-FJG
)	
Respondent.)	

ORDER

Pending before this Court is movant's motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 to vacate, set aside, or correct his sentence (Doc. #1, filed November 11, 2006). The Court finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter.

Movant entered into plea negotiations with the government, and pled guilty on February 9, 2006. See Doc. #59 and #62 to Case No. 05-00325. Through the plea agreement, movant agreed that the minimum penalty the Court could impose was a sentence of not less than ten years. Doc. #62, ¶ 5. Movant also waived his right to appeal or challenge, through post-conviction motions, his guilt or sentence. Doc. #62, ¶ 15. The government agreed to support a reduced sentence pursuant to safety valve provisions if he qualified. Doc. #62, ¶ 10(d). At sentencing, on June 2, 2006, the government noted that movant had not provided a complete and truthful statement, as required under the safety valve provisions (Sent. Tr. 3-4). Given the government's agent's testimony that movant had not provided full and truthful information, this Court found that movant would not receive the benefit of the safety valve reduction, and sentenced movant to the minimum sentence of 120 months' incarceration (Sent. Tr. 11). Although movant waived his right to appeal as a term of his plea agreement, movant appealed his sentence to the Eighth Circuit. The Eighth Circuit dismissed plaintiff appeal due to this waiver on March 13, 2007. See Doc. #106 in Case No. 05-00325.

The issues raised by movant focus on (1) whether or not defense counsel's representation fell below an objective standard of reasonableness and movant was thereby prejudiced, claiming that his defense counsel promised him a sentence of 60 months; and (2) this Court imposed a sentence greater than that called for by the PSR.

Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668, 687 (1984) held to establish ineffective assistance of counsel, defendant must show: (1) that his counsel's representation fell below an objective standard of reasonableness; and (2) that counsel's errors were prejudicial. The Court must indulge a strong presumption that counsel's conduct falls within the wide range of reasonable professional assistance; that the challenged action might be considered sound trial strategy. The reasonableness of counsel's action is judged from the perspective of counsel at the time of trial and not by hindsight. Lockart v. Fretwell, 506 U.S. 364 (1993). Even if counsel's actions are professionally unreasonable, it may not warrant setting aside the judgment if the error had no effect on the judgment.

JUDGMENT

The Court has reviewed movant's motion (Doc. #1) respondent's opposition (Doc. #5), and Court transcripts of the change of plea and sentencing hearings, and finds that movant's allegations are without merit. In particular, movant has waived his post-conviction rights. Further, movant's substantive claims are without merit for the reasons stated in respondent's opposition (Doc. #5). This Court adopts and incorporates by reference herein that analysis as its own.

For the aforesaid reasons movant's motion to vacate, set aside or correct his sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 (Doc. #1), filed November 7, 2006, is denied.

No evidentiary hearing will be held in this matter because the issues raised are resolvable by the record. Furthermore, movant will be denied a motion for certificate of appealability, in that the issues raised are not debatable among reasonable jurists, nor could a court resolve the issues differently.

/s/Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr.
Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr.
Chief United States District Judge

Dated: 4/5/07
Kansas City, Missouri